The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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School houses are the republican line of fortification.—Horace Mann.

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ALLIED GREED MUST NOT OVERWHELM COAL MINERS

The national conference of trade union representatives in Pittsburgh, on November 14, that will consider the miners' strike, is an unusual event.

The strike is an usual event. It involves western Pennsylvania and Ohio, and its ending will have a direct bearing on the trade union movement.

If the miners are starved into submission, if they are forced to surrender through exhaustion of their union's resources, it will be a triumph for contract-breaking employers, low wages, injunction judges, yellow doggery and gunmen who are legalized by the state and controlled and paid by the coal owners.

Thousands of miners and their families in western Pennsylvania have been evicted from company houses. Federal Judge Schoonmaker has enjoined a bonding company from aiding these miners in resisting being thrown on the state highways with their families. The union and individuals are also enjoined from aiding victimized miners, who resist eviction.

This judge has denied the miners a recourse to due process of law, and their families must be sheltered in barracks.

This situation is a new record for industrial oppression in America. The federal judiciary and state authorities are hand in hand with autocratic employers who would lower wages and drive employees into submission.

More than 40,000 miners refuse to accept debasing conditions that the Pittsburgh Coal Company and the Pittsburgh Terminal Coal Corporation would enforce.

These concerns repudiated their union agreement and declared for non-unionism. They want wages based on the non-union fields of West Virginia and Kentucky.

If the miners accept, the non-union fields will lower their rates and this will be met by similar reductions in western Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Stability and uniformity will be replaced by starvation and chaos, while the coal owners will not increase their output.

The miners, their wives and children are enduring the eighth month of sacrifice. They must not be asked to carry this burden alone through the rigors of winter. The trade union movement must not permit this test of human endurance.

Every humane impulse of organized labor and sympathizers must be stirred.

A nation-wide publicity should be launched against a corporate-controlled state and a federal judiciary that is aiding greed in its effort to degrade wage earners.

ELASTIC INJUNCTION COVERS EVERY CASE

New York, Nov. 12.—Supreme Court Justice Richard H. Mitchell has ordered Joseph G. Phelan and James H. Coleman, organizers of the Amalgamated Street Car Men's Union, to show cause why they should not be punished for contempt of court in violating an injunction restraining officers of the Consolidated Railroad Workers' Union, now defunct, from attempting to organize employes of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company.

The citation against the two trade unionists illustrates the far-reaching effect of a labor injunction.

The Consolidated Railroad Workers' Union was formed last year by a group of Interborough employes who discarded that corporation's company "union." The independents went to strike and were enjoined. They were defeated and their organization fell to pieces. Some of the members returned to the company "union," while others urged affiliation with the legitimate Amalgamated Association.

The injunction against the Consolidated did not mention the Amalgamated or any official or member, but this court order is now used against the Amalgamated.

Enjoin Entire Labor Movement, Demands Street Car Company

New York, Nov. 12.—The Interborough Rapid Transit Company has asked the Supreme Court of New York County to enjoin half a hundred trade unionists from "advising, enticing, inducing or persuading" its company "union" employes from joining the legitimate Street Car Men's Union. Damages of $130,000 is also asked.

The unionists include William Green, president A. F. of L., and William D. Mahon, president Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes.

The Interborough wants the unionists prohibited from holding meetings of company employes or from circulating handbills or other printed matter. Every act that can be construed as favoring unionization would come under the court order. Every "agent, confederate and any and all persons acting in aid of or in combination with them, or with and under the direction of them or any of them," are included.

This would bring into contempt of court any member of organized labor or sympathizer who even suggested that these employes should affiliate to the trade union movement.

Organized labor's opposition to the company "union" is cited to prove that the A. F. of L. has launched a romantic crusade to destroy these organizations and to cause violation of the yellow dog.

Several hundred members of the Interborough company "union" formed an independent organization and suspended work last year. They were enjoined and because of their isolation from the regular trade union movement they were compelled to abandon their strike. Many of them realized the futility of the company "union" and independent action and have secretly joined the Amalgamated Association.

The Interborough is attempting to block this movement and appeals to the court to sustain their "union" and their yellow dog.

BURNS TAMPERED WITH JURY; FALL-SINCLAIR TRIAL FAILS

Washington, Nov. 12.—Discovery that the notorious Burns Detective Agency was tampering with the Fall-Sinclair jury caused Justice Siddons of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia to order a mistrial. The court said the jury was subjected to a "close, intimate, objectionable and improper surveillance."

Fall, former Secretary of the Interior, together with Harry P. Sinclair, oil operator, are charged with criminal conspiracy to defraud the government when the Teapot Dome oil lease was secured by Sinclair.

Government detectives raided Burns' offices in this city. Reports on jurors by Burns' men to Henry Mason Day, an official of one of Sinclair's companies, were found. Day, it is charged, was the "go-between" for Sinclair and Burns.

This expose was followed by an affidavit by a street car employe that Edward E. Kidwell, one of the jurors, stated to him that he (Kidwell) expected to get a car "a block long" out of the trial. Kidwell said Sinclair is "a good fellow" and boasted that the jury would disagree.

The grand jury is investigating the whole matter. Day, the "go-between," refuses to answer questions on the ground that he may be incriminated. One of his attorneys is Daniel Thew Wright, former justice of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia. Wright sentenced Samuel Gompers, John Mitchell and Frank Morrison to one year, nine months and six months in jail for contempt of court in connection with the Bucks Stove injunction.

The government's raid on the detective agency revealed that when the Fall-Sinclair trial started 16 Burns' detectives were watching the jury and doing other shadow work. Four detectives were released because "the client decided that only certain members (of the jury) need watching from now on."

Reports of the gum-shoe men referred to the most trival actions by men who were watched. One detective reported that a juror "stopped to pick up an autumn leaf."

The government and the defense have agreed that the new trial will start January 16 next.

HOW PRIVATE DETECTIVES WORK

When the government raided headquarters of the Burns Detective Agency in Washington, it was discovered that "Operative No. 014" made a report on a house owned by John P. Kern, a juror in the Fall-Sinclair case.

"I could find no record of existing mortgages on the property at this time," the private detective reported.

Why did this snooper want to know if Juror Kern had a mortgage on his property? What connection is there between a mortgage and evidence that the jurors pass upon?

Was it the purpose of the detective to ascertain if his "client" would be a good fairy and pay off mortgages, if jurors were inclined to be "seen"?

WHY NOT STUDY AMERICA?

The so-called "American Trade Union Delegation" to Russia revives the old libel that American trade unionists are only interested in "a fair day's pay for a fair day's work."

This charge, hoary with age, is expected to "bring down the house" whenever revolutionists plan to save society. The intelligentsia and other "seekers of facts" also spread the glad tidings. They consider it a sign of "advanced liberalism" to repeat the untruth.

These investigators (?) should study the labor movement of their own country before they pose as experts on conditions in foreign lands.

They will find that American trade unionists have always insisted on a greater share of the nation's wealth, and have never accepted rigid standards that permit of no expansion to meet higher living standards and cultural aspirations.

Nowhere in the history of the A. F. of L. or its affiliates can be found a demand for "a fair day's pay for a fair day's work."

BRITISH LABOR GAINS IN ELECTION CONTEST

London, England, Nov. 12.—Returns on city and borough elections in England and Scotland show that the Labor Party made substantial gains. The battle was for control of city and borough councils. The result will affect the next general election when the Labor Party will attempt to secure control of the government through elections to the House of Commons.

City and borough councillors enforce home-rule decisions. If a city or borough council is progressive it can supply houses at reasonable rents; it can force companies and landlords to establish maternity and child welfare centers and can provide milk and other food for nursing mothers and infants; it can safeguard the public health; it can own and control its own gas, electricity, street car, bus and other services; it can erect bath and wash houses and can provide parks and recreation grounds.

Where labor's influence is small in these councils, nothing is done under the plea of "economy" and higher tax rates.

The election has placed labor in control of more than one-fifth of these councils. In a number of other cases labor is the biggest single party in the councils and remains a minority only because of coalitions between Liberals and Conservatives.

INJURED MAN'S SUICIDE BLAMED ON EMPLOYER

New York, Nov. 12.—The Appellate Division of the State Supreme Court has ruled that the National Biscuit Company is responsible for the death of an employe who committed suicide because of six-months' agony he suffered after a foot was crushed while working for the company. The court unanimously upheld a compensation award by the New York Industrial Board to the employe's widow.

In defending the board's award, Deputy Attorney General Alexander A. Tausky insisted that the suicide was a direct and proximate result of the injury; that the employe was impelled to kill himself by the mental reaction from the suffering.

The biscuit company contended that the suicide had no relation to the injury.

CLOAK FIRMS WARNED

New York, Nov. 12.—Cloak manufacturers must live up to their agreement not to patronize non-union shops, warns Raymond V. Ingersoll, impartial chairman of the cloak industry.

Certain employers are violating their union agreement and Chairman Ingersoll notifies them that "they must expect to suffer the consequences." The tricky manufacturers may find they have been isolated from all union connections.

NECKWEAR STRIKE HAS AMUSING SIDE

New Haven, Conn., Nov. 12.—The seven-weeks' strike of neckwear workers in this city has developed an amusing side.

The Chamber of Commerce urged the manufacturers to come here from New York. The manufacturers paid a wage rate that was lower than New York but higher than New Haven. Chamber of Commerce members were panic stricken.

"You will create a bad precedent for our local employers," wailed these business men, who want new industries only on condition that New Haven's low wage rate be maintained.

Another amusing feature was the effort of a group of Yale students to secure publicity for the strikers. The neckwear workers were ignored by local newspapers, and citizens were unacquainted with the strikers' cause.

"It's easy to get publicity," said the Yale men. "We are as popular as a rattlesnake in a children's playground. And every time we kick over a barrel to celebrate a sports victory over Harvard or Princeton we are arrested and get on the front page in the local press. Just watch us."

So the Yale men went on the picket line. As expected, were arrested. But the newspapers ignored the arrest, and when the students asked "How come?" they were told: "It is against our policy to publish strike news."

DEATH TAX LOBBYISTS ACTIVE IN WASHINGTON

Washington, Nov. 12.—A Congressional investigation of efforts that a lobby has been set up in the nation's capital for the repeal of the federal inheritance tax was predicted by Congressman Garner.

"This tax repeal lobby is the most expensive I know," said Mr. Rainey. He said there are more than 1,200 millionaires in Florida who claim residence in that state because of a constitutional amendment which precludes an inheritance tax.

Opponents of this system are urging that the state be permitted to pass such a tax. Defenders of the federal tax claim that this will eventually result in no tax, as the states will adopt the Florida plan.

WOMAN DEFENDS PRIMARY

Galveston, Nov. 12.—The primary system was defended by Miss Belle Sherwin, president of the National League of Women Voters, in a speech in this city.

She urged women to stand solid for the direct primary and oppose every effort to institute the convention system.

MANY ILLITERATE VOTERS

New York, Nov. 12.—Under a state law new voters must take a literacy test when they register. The recent registration showed that one-seventh of the 32,113 men and women who took the test failed to pass.

DEFEAT MINIMUM WAGE

Duluth, Nov. 12.—City commissioners defeated the minimum wage ordinance that was urged by organized labor.

PAINTERS' WAGE RULE SUSTAINED BY COURT

Washington, Nov. 12.—The District of Columbia Court of Appeals has set aside an injunction granted the Barker Painting Company of New York, which had a contract for painting a hotel in this city.

According to the union's rules, a contractor living in one city and having a contract in another city must pay the scale which calls for the highest wage and the shortest week. The New York scale is higher than Washington's, and the union insisted that the high scale be paid. The company secured an injunction on the ground that the rules were arbitrary, were a conspiracy and violated the anti-trust laws.

The Court of Appeals rejected these claims and dissolved the order.

LABOR'S WAGE STAND UPHELD BY BUSINESS

Portland, Ore., Nov. 12.—In a speech in this city President Green took a sly dig at economists and business men who formerly discredited organized labor's theory of high wages.

"It is now agreed," said the trade unionist "that high wages and business prosperity go hand in hand. Wages are translated into better food, better clothing, better shelter and increased leisure with which to enjoy life. It is for these that the American worker, through the A. F. of L., demands a higher and still higher wage."

DEATH PENALTY DOOMED

Williamette, Ore., Nov. 12.—The death penalty will eventually be abolished, declared Hon. George Desmond, of the State Supreme Court, in an address to law students at the Williamette University.

The jurist predicted that capital punishment will be replaced by long-term sentences and convicts will be given employment at creative labor.

PASS M'NARY BILL, FARMERS DEMAND

St. Louis, Nov. 12.—Repassage by the next Congress of the McNary-Haugen bill, which was vetoed by President Coolidge, or passage of a similar act, was demanded by the Corn Belt and Southern Farm Conference.

The farmers declined to indorse any presidential candidate, but urged "united support of the man in each political party whose position on the farm question is known to be satisfactory."

TEAMSTERS ORGANIZE

Rock Island, Ill., Nov. 12.—Teamsters in this city, Moline and Davenport have launched an organizing campaign. They are assisted by their international organization.

FIVE-DAY WEEK COMING; LABOR MUST USE STRIKE

Chicago, Nov. 12.—The five-day week is coming and labor must get ahead on the strike, said Bertrand Russell, English philosopher, in his address on "Science and Civilization."

"I believe that modern machinery and scientific methods of manufacture will not only bring about the universal five-day week, but also the five-hour day," said Mr. Russell. "And when this comes about there should be no reduction in wages, but the workers should benefit by the greater use of machinery in more leisure time without loss in income."

SPRAY DEVICE IS DEADLY, NAVAL PAINTERS CLAIM

Washington, Nov. 12.—Navy yard painters are being sent to a slow death through enforced use of paint-spraying machines that fill their lungs with noxious particles and vapors, their representative, William J. Gallagher, charged at a hearing of the Navy Wage Board in Chicago.

He insisted that painters be granted higher wages for having to use these machines, the effects of which is sought in certain States because of their health menace.

LABOR CAN TEACH BUSINESS MEN HOW TO ORGANIZE ON BEST LINE

New York, Nov. 12.—In urging an "American Federation of Business to Check the Growth of Bureaucracy," Benjamin A. Baker, writing in the Annalist, leading financial journal, says the American Federation of Labor offers a suggestive model, and that the labor movement "has something to teach American business."

"With the policies of the Federation of Labor and many of its theories of economic relations a very large proportion of business men are in flat agreement," says Mr. Baker.

"But from the point of view of organized effectiveness it may be that the American Federation of Labor has something to teach American business.

"The outstanding feature of the A. F. of L., as the writer sees it, is its possession of a definite corporate code of conduct, sharply enforced by public opinion, which governs the attitude of members of the local bodies comprising the Federation toward the economic issues which immediately touch the wage earners of the country.

"One has only to consult his own contacts with the extremely varied attitudes of different business men toward the use of government in their business enterprises to entertain a strong suspicion that something as definite as the public opinion expressed in the economic code of the A. F. of L., and upheld by a preponderant body of business men, is needed to reshape the practical attitude of business men toward government finance and government interference.

"Would it not be profitable—and may it be necessary as a means to effective action against government encroachment and in defense of private property and initiative—for the Chamber of Commerce of the United States to set up a definite code of relations to government, embodied in an organization with a vitality and enforcing capacity comparable to that of the A. F. of L.?

COMMUNISTS USE IDEALISM TO HIDE TYRANNY

Washington, Nov. 12.—The tenth anniversary of the Bolshevist revolution was observed by American sentimentalists who hang on the fringes of a movement that would terrify them if they faced realities.

Genuine revolutionists frankly acknowledge that Communism is impossible in its pure, unadulterated form as practised by peasants. Most of these are 100 per cent illiterate. All of them are highly individualistic. The comparative handful of Communists in control must extend their theory to industrial nations. Hence their "boring-from-within" in America and organized labor's opposition to the dictatorial Reds.

When the Bolsheviks seized the Russian government they placed everything in control of the State. They were forced to abandon this policy and make concessions (new economic policy). Small business. The peasants refuse to be Communized and the Bolsheviks are too cunning to force the issue—as they have in the cities—on 85 per cent of the people.

The Bolsheviks' power is in Moscow, Leningrad and other cities where industry is attempted. This fraction of the population, aided by an all-seeing secret police (GPU) and military force, makes a Red rule possible. No opposition party or newspaper is permitted and active opposition by any individual is outlawed. Even passive opposition attracts the dreaded secret police who work along the same lines as under the czaristic regime. When a person is arrested by the secret police he can not choose his lawyer, but must accept a government official. Neither can the defendant call witnesses in his behalf.

There is no secret voting at public elections. The reason, Communists state, is the people's illiteracy. A system which makes it impossible for secret police to "spot" opposition to the Communist ticket.

The intricate system of electing public officials can be best understood by applying it to an American city. With Chicago as an illustration, workers, housewives and others in that city would vote by a show of hands for delegates to the city soviet (council). That soviet would elect delegates to the Cook County soviet, and the county soviet would elect delegates to the Illinois soviet. The State soviet would elect delegates to the national soviet in Washington.

The national soviet would go through a form of legislating. It would meet for one week every two weeks. Only one week's business to 500 members whom it selects. This committee would pass all the fundamental laws and select the Council of People's Commissars, who are heads of the various governmental departments, practically the dictators of power in the United States. Trotsky was one of these commissars, as is Stalin, the present Communist king pin.

This rulership from above is given the soothing title "democratic centralism."

Anyone acquainted with practical politics can appreciate the impossibility of trusting such a small, compact, disciplined group that are protected by secret police, strict censorship and rigid laws that deny the slightest opposition or the formation of protesting parties.

The Communist rulership from above also makes it impossible to defeat an undesirable official because of the long and devious methods by which he is elected.

BURNS' LATEST JURY "JOB" RECALLS HIS OREGON DEAL

Washington, Nov. 12.—Tampering with the Fall-Sinclair jury, by Detective Burns, which resulted in a mistrial, is not a new experience for this private sleuth.

Burns secured the conviction of Willard N. Jones of Portland, Ore., in 1909 on the charge of land frauds. In 1911 President Taft commutted Jones' sentence to four months' imprisonment and a $12,000 fine. The following year the President pardoned Jones on recommendation of Attorney General Wickersham, whose investigation revealed how a private detective can "railroad" an innocent man by selecting a jury that has been pledged to convict.

It is on record that Burns said: "We are going to make up a new jury box and we want to be sure that no man's name goes into the box unless we know that he will convict." In a cipher telegram to W. Scott Smith, secretary to Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock, on August 19, 1909, Burns said:

"Jury commissioners cleaned out old box from which trial jurors were selected and put in 600 names, every one of which was investigated before they were placed in the box. This confidential."

This cipher telegram was in the possession of the Department of Justice when Attorney General Wickersham made his report to the President.

The Attorney General also stated that a man named Sorensen was indicted with Jones; that Sorensen was a Burns detective and was paid by the government under the name of George Edwards. Sorensen made it possible for Burns to "keep tab on Jones, who relied on Sorensen because he was a fellow defendant and accepted favors from them. He (Jones) would otherwise have objected."

Burns escaped punishment for what the Attorney General referred to as "high-handed outrageous conduct." Burns was later appointed head of the Department of Justice secret service by Attorney General Daugherty. This appointment was a reward for "highly confidential services" rendered Daugherty during the 1920 presidential campaign. President Gompers exposed Burns' Oregon record to a Congressional committee in opposing the Daugherty appointment. Burns was involved in the Teapot Dome and Senator Wheeler of Montana. The private detective retired from public view when Daugherty was driven from office.

DYERS AND PRESSERS WIN

Detroit, Nov. 12.—Elimination of commissions and numerous work evolutions have been secured by the Retail Cleaners, Dyers' and Pressers' Union.

BRITISH PARLIAMENT FACES ANGRY WORKERS

London England, Nov. 12.—Both Houses of Parliament convened on November 8 for a short session before the Christmas recess. Efforts will be made to jam through legislation that will be contested by the Labor members.

The principal measure that incites labor's opposition is a proposal to revise unemployment insurance downward. This will affect approximately 2,000,000 unemployed and the workers will become of hungry men and women who can not find employment.

The Conservative Party finds its prestige dimmed by labor victories in the recent city and borough elections throughout England and Scotland. The result will be an inspiration for the Labor members in the House of Commons who will take advantage of every occasion to expose the die-hard policy of the Conservatives. The Tories must also face growing resentment in their own ranks by a group of "younger Conservatives" who are outspoken of their criticism of the elder statesmen. The "younger Conservatives" joined in the revolt against Premier Baldwin's proposal in the last Parliament to weaken the House of Commons and strengthen the House of Lords.

MINE-LOADING PACT SIGNED IN ILLINOIS

Chicago, Nov. 12.—Mine operators and representatives of the United Mine Workers agreed on a loading machine contract that will continue until March 31, next year. Local agreements now in force will not be changed and the new agreement will only affect those mines where a contract has not been adopted.

CAN'T ENFORCE LAW

Washington, Nov. 12.—Business men urge repeal of the revenue act of 1926 providing a penalty of 50 per cent on those who evade the corporation surtax. Witnesses told a committee of congress that the law has never been enforced.

CIVIL SERVICE FAVORED

Austin, Texas, Nov. 12.—This state has regulating hours of women in industry is applicable to women employed in state institutions, according to a ruling by Miss Ethel Hilton, assistant attorney general. Attorney General Pollard has approved the decision.

COAL OWNERS SELECT MEMBERSHIP OF UNION

Indianapolis, Nov. 12.—The United Mine Workers' Journal makes a smashing reply to the charge by Black Diamond that the union opens its arms to criminals. Black Diamond is sustained by anti-union coal owners.

"Black Diamond knows that if any criminals are engaged in the coal mining industry they were brought in by the coal companies and not by the union," says the labor journal. "The union does not take men into the industry. It hires no one. It has no right or authority to hire any man to work in or around a coal mine. The responsibility for this rests with the companies alone. If there are any vicious men and criminals in the mines they are hired and placed there by the companies and not by the union.

"No man can become a member of the United Mine Workers of America until he has first secured a job and started to work in or around a coal mine or tipple. The union takes into membership only those men whom the companies employ. Therefore, the coal companies select the membership of the United Mine Workers of America. Black Diamond knows this fact as well as anyone else.

"When a coal company thinks well enough of a man to hire him to work in its mine, it certainly is a sign that he is not good enough to become a member of the union."

LABOR SHORTAGE CRY AGAIN HEARD IN TEXAS

El Paso, Texas, Nov. 12.—The annual cry that there is a shortage of farm labor is again heard in this section of Texas.

The latest bluff is made by Idus T. Gillett, president of the El Paso County Farm Bureau. Editor Moran of the Labor Advocate quotes records of the Texas State Department of Agriculture to prove that Mr. Gillette is incorrect.

CHECK OIL PRODUCTION

Tulsa, Okla., Nov. 12.—Oil operators in this State will continue to limit production until the first of the year. They have appointed an oil czar who will carry out this order.

WORKER ON PENSION BOARD

Los Angeles, Nov. 12.—Governor Young appointed John F. Dalton on a commission created by the legislature to investigate old-age pensions for state officials and employes. The appointee is president of the State Federation of Labor and is a member of Los Angeles Typographical Union. The members of the commission serve without salary.